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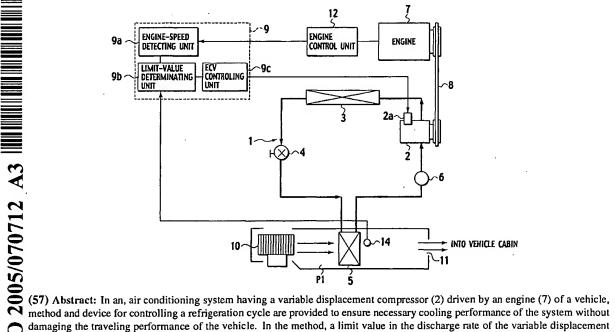
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damaging the traveling performance of the vehicle. In the method, a limit value in the discharge rate of the variable displacement compressor (2) is determined by an engine speed (12) or a variable related to the engine speed. The variable displacement compressor is controlled (9, 2a) on the basis of the limit value.